

**PROGRAM POLICY COORDINATION WORKGROUP  
MINUTES  
July 10, 2003  
GEF III, Room 041**

**Attendees:**

Dick Buschmann, Milw. Careers Coop.	Donna King, DHCF/PIC
Shirin Cabraal, LAW	Mike McKenzie, DHCF/BHCE
Chris Connor, DOA	Carol Medaris, WCCF
Alesia Daniel, Milwaukee Co. DHS	Wendy Metcalf, Marquette Co. DHS
Monica Danley, Milwaukee Co DHS	Sue Moline Larson, Lutheran Office for Public Policy
Sara Edmonds, DHFS/BHCE	Linda Preyz, DWD
Brian Fangmeier, DHFS/BIMA	Scott Riedasch, DHFS/DHCF/BHCE
Kathy Judd, Dane County DHS	Sara Shackleton, Dane County DHS
Jim Hennen, DHFS/SE Region	Sheryl Siegl, Winnebago Co. DHS
Jon Janowski, MHTF	Jayne Wanless, DHCF/BHCE

**Review/Revision of Charter**

**Mike McKenzie**

Mike handed out a proposed revision to the charter for this group. The goals for this group are very similar to the goals for DHFS. Some re-wording was suggested and Mike will get these changes into the next revision of this document. It will then be submitted to IMAC.

**Transitional Food Stamps**

**Jayne Wanless**

Jayne Wanless handed out to the group an issue paper on Transitional Food Stamps (TFS). These benefits would be available to those going off of cash assistance. Food stamps would be issued based on their current income minus the TANF payment. This amount is then "frozen" during this transitional period or up to 5 months. The committee was presented with several considerations for implementation of this Farm Bill option. The issue paper addressed these questions:

- Who to include in the population that would be eligible for TFS?
  - Option 1 - include all households that lose TANF, except W2 sanctioned households or disqualified from FS program and as a state option: groups that move out of state, have a QC sanction or are deceased.
  - Option 2 - include households that leave TANF cash assistance because of employment or increased earnings.
  - Option 3 - include households that leave TANF cash assistance because of employment or have reached TANF time limits but not for other reasons such as closed for a missed appointment.
- Whether to act on changes reported to other programs?
  - Option 1 - Do not act on reported changes
  - Option 2 - Act on reported changes that increase the benefit amount for the family
  - Option 3 - Act on all changes reported for other programs.

Other questions and concerns were raised. Jayne will be looking into getting some of these answers and bringing them back to the group at the next meeting. Dick Buschmann suggested that if we obtain any answers before the next meeting that they might be shared via email.

### **Other Farm Bill Options**

**Sara Edmonds**

Phase I of reduced reporting requirements will be implemented this month. It was originally set for 7/1 but had to be extended to 7/26 due to the mass mailing that must be done to inform clients of these changes. This mailing will help educate clients as to the reduction in the amount of changes they are required to report and will let them know their current reported income and what income would put them over the 130% of FPL. This phase will be quite a change in thinking for local agencies. Phase II is scheduled for January of 2004. Phase II will include much more by way of system-related changes.

Other Farm Bill Options that were covered:

- Child support payments exclusion vs. deduction - decided not to do this; too error prone
- Simplified definition of income - already disregarded student financial aid; aligning additionally with MA
- Simplified definition of homeless shelter costs - also too error prone
- Simplified determination of deductions - to allow deduction to remain the same throughout the certification period as long as it was verified at application. Will consider impact with phases II and III of semi-annual reporting.
- Resources - we have reduced verification requirements and excluded real property
- FS Application on the internet - done
- Transitional Food Stamps - slated for October 2003

### **Migrant Employer Cafeterias**

**Linda Preyz**

Jonathan Bader had raised this issue with the group at the last meeting. As promised, Linda updated the group with information obtained from DWD. Fortunately, there are already some focus groups looking for interest among recipients to use this kind of service. Primarily canneries are the employers that have cafeterias for use by their migrant workers. Being able to use FS at these places, as they can be used in some restaurants, would be very helpful to those eligible for FS. These focus groups will also look into seeing if other FS recipients near by the canneries, though not cannery workers, might also want to utilize the cafeteria/EBT setup.

### **Contract with Citicorp & Farmers Markets**

**Mike McKenzie**

Mike responded to questions from the previous meeting. In regards to the next contract for EBT with Citicorp, we have the option to just continue on status quo with this current vendor to extend the contract. The Department prefers not to just extend contracts but would rather go through the Right of First Proposal process and there is a group forming soon to start this process. The current contract runs until approximately mid-2005.

Also another question from last meeting was about funding for the farmers' markets. Currently, there is no further funding. Mike suggested Jon contact Rick Zynda for other possible options.

### **Milwaukee County and Customer Service**

**Mike McKenzie**

One concern of the group continues to be the Milwaukee County move and problems with customer service. There will be monthly meetings of the Milwaukee County transition issues group. Cheryl McIlquham, Joanne Simpson and John Haine of DHFS will be attending these meetings.

**Program Participation Grant****Mike McKenzie**

Wisconsin has been awarded \$1.7 million grant to increase participation in the FS program. Management at DHFS believes that this group would be the best to serve as advisory group for this project. Approximately, \$800,000 will be spent on enhancements to the CARES system that will allow, among other things, the customer to screen for potential eligibility via the internet. Currently, we are linked with the USDA/FNS screener until we have our own. The timeline for implementation is approximately two years. This group could be used in an advisory capacity for this project adding ad hoc members as needed.

**Next Meeting - Thursday, August 14, 2003 in GEF III, Room 349 from 12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.**